

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are pending. Claim 1 is amended herein. Claim 17 is added herein. Support for the amendment and new claim is at least found at page 5, lines 10-13.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibahara (US 7,132,154) in view of Border (US 2002/0123550 A1).

In response thereto, applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not be obvious for at least the reason that there is no basis whereby one of skill in the art could combine the references so as to derive the claims.

There is no reason with a rational underpinning whereby a skilled artisan could derive the claimed invention as now presented. Specifically, Shibahara teaches only “a small amount” of a second filler as a “loading material.” The claims as now presented do not allow for a “small amount” of inorganic particles. In regard to the teachings of Boarder, the reference is not relied upon for any equivalent disclosures.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

Application No.: 10/580,714
Art Unit: 1794

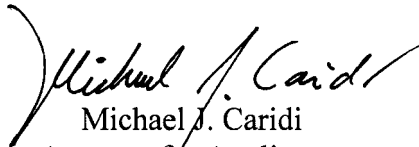
Amendment under 37 CFR §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 062568

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Caridi", with a large, stylized initial "M" and a flourish at the end.

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MJC/ttw